

Lesson I.

ABRAM LEAVING HOME

October 6, 1918.

LESSON SETTING—During the present Quarter we are to study the lives of the patriarchs. We begin with Abram, the first great hero of faith. In the history of redemption, God separated an individual for himself before he separated a nation, and made him a fountain of blessing for the race. That individual was Abram.

GOLDEN TEXT—Be thou a blessing.—Genesis 12 : 2 (Rev. Ver.).

*Memorize Matt. 25: 31.

THE LESSON PASSAGE—Genesis 12 : 1-9.

1 Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee :

2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great ; and thou shalt be a blessing :

3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and I will curse him that curseth thee : and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

4 So Abram departed, as the Lord had spoken unto him ; and Lot went with him : and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran.

5 And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had

Revised Version—¹Omit had ; ²the ; ³be thou a blessing ; ⁴him that curseth thee will I curse ; ⁵went ; ⁶Shechem ; ⁷oak of Moreh ; ⁸Ai ; ⁹South (capital "S").

gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran ; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan ; and into the land of Canaan they came.

6 And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem, unto the plain of Moreh. And the Canaanite was then in the land.

7 And the Lord appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land : and there builded he an altar unto the Lord, who appeared unto him.

8 And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Beth-el, and pitched his tent, having Beth-el on the west, and Ha'i on the east : and there he builded an altar unto the Lord, and called upon the name of the Lord.

9 And Abram journeyed, going on still toward the south.

HOME DAILY BIBLE READINGS

M.—Abram leaving home, Gen. 12 : 1-9.

T.—God's covenant with Abram, Gen. 17 : 1-8.

W.—God keeps his covenant, Acts 7 : 1-8.

S.—The blessing of heeding the call, Isa. 41 : 8-16.

Th.—Fruits of obedient faith, Heb. 11 : 1-10.

F.—True greatness through service, Mark 10 : 35-45.

S.—Ministers called to service, Acts 13 : 1-13.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

I. GOD'S COMMAND.—1. The Lord said (Rev. Ver.) Every great religious movement begins with the



TENTS SUCH AS ABRAM MAY HAVE USED

word of God in the heart of a man. Abram. The name means "exalted father." Get thee out. The first word is a stern one,—it is a call to sacrifice and surrender. Of thy country ; Haran, to which Terah, Abram's father, had come from Ur of the Chaldees (see ch. 11 : 31). From thy kindred . . . thy father's house. Fatherland, friends, home, these are the three precious things Abram must surrender. Abram's surroundings in Haran, with its idolatry, were not favorable to one who was to serve the one living and true God. God calls him from these that he may make new revelations of himself to Abram. Old surroundings are often barriers to higher things. Unto a land . . . I will shew. The land is not named, but Abram knows it will be God's choice. The first compensation for obedience is,—God plans for him.

II. GOD'S PROMISE.—2, 3. A great nation. He founds a nation as well as finds a land—the second compensation. I will bless thee ; third compensation—he gains a friend. Abram is called the friend of God. Make thy name great ; fourth compensation—he gains fame. His name will be honored. Thou shalt be a blessing ; rather, "be a blessing." Fifth compensation—he finds a mission in life,—to be a blessing to others. Bless them that bless thee ; sixth compensation—protection. God is with those who help Abram and against all who oppose him. All the families . . . be blessed (Rev. Ver.) ; seventh compensation—he gains a whole world. His influence will be world wide and age long.

III. ABRAM'S OBEDIENCE.—4, 5. Abram departed. He became a wanderer, not by desire but by faith. He chooses the invisible and surrenders the visible. He accepts God's will as the supreme thing in life. Abram's faith shows itself in action. Lot went with him. He was Abram's nephew, the son of Haran. Sarai. The name means "princess." She was Abram's half sister. All their substance ; possessions. Souls ; persons. These were slaves. While the Roman counted the "heads" of his servants, and the English master speaks of his "hands," the Hebrew master spoke of his slaves as "souls." Hebrew slavery was mild. Into the land of Canaan they came. The journey was through sun scorched desert, haunted by wild beasts and hostile tribes, but God led them safely. Canaan means "lowlands."

6, 7. Unto the place of Sichem ; a resting place after the long journey, near Mounts Ebal and Gerizim,

* For the recitation of the Scripture Memory Passages in either Part of List IV., a Red Seal is added to the Diploma in Colors given for List III., and a Gold Seal for the verses of the other Part. For Form of Application, apply to Rev. J. C. Robertson, D.D., our General Secretary for Sabbath Schools, Confederation Life Bldg., Toronto.